

been the understanding in Washington since Monday, when Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, discussed the case at the State Department, that the controversy had reached the conversational stage and that the negotiations would be carried on without the exchange of formal notes.

Secretary Lansing outlined to the German Ambassador the position of the Washington Government, and after their conference a confident feeling prevailed here that Germany's implied justification of the act of a submarine commander in sinking the Arabic would be modified in a way satisfactory to the United States.

All the evidence collected by the State Department in regard to the Arabic incident was summarized and cable to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin for presentation to Dr. von Jagow. This evidence was believed by the Administration to be so convincing that the German Government would be obliged to furnish the disavowal requested by the United States.

The statements made by Dr. von Jagow today are construed by officials as being in line with the position of President Wilson, and it is expected that Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff will reach an agreement that will be satisfactory.

## TO INSTRUCT ENVOY.

### German Government Cables Boat Policy to Count von Bernstorff

BERLIN, Sept. 18.—The Foreign Office sent a long cablegram to Ambassador von Bernstorff this morning containing instructions regarding the submarine controversy and the policy of Germany. A long cable report was received from the Ambassador on Thursday. Official Berlin, following the receipt of Ambassador von Bernstorff's report and the framing of the instructions cable to him today, became confident that the whole submarine problem can be settled satisfactorily and quickly.

This feeling of confidence has been increased by the fact that the negotiations will now be conducted in the form of conversations between Ambassador von Bernstorff and the Washington officials, since in such conversations the Ambassador is in a position to communicate many things not adapted to inclusion in a public note—things of a nature to convince the United States Government of Germany's good faith and determination to remove sources of conflict.

Dr. Edler, secretary to Ambassador von Bernstorff, said last night that the instructions sent from Berlin yesterday had not yet been received.

## HATES TAINTED NEWS.

### Reventlow Says American Misrepresented German American Despatch

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Sept. 18.—Count von Reventlow, of the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, criticizes the semi-official *U.S. Agency* which, he says, has circulated such unreliable and contradictory messages regarding the relations between Germany and the United States with regard to German American questions that it is impossible to obtain from them any basis for clear judgment.

"They have caused complete confusion concerning the plans and methods of both Governments," he asserts.

## NEW RULES FOR U BOATS

### Commanders Summoned to Germany to Receive Instructions.

By the United Press.  
AMSTERDAM, Sept. 18.—Commanders of practically every German submarine operating in the Atlantic have been summoned to Berlin for an important conference, according to reports reaching here to-night.

The U boat commanders, it is said, will receive explicit instructions regarding their future operations against British merchantmen. They will be cautioned particularly against attacks on passenger carrying ships, and urged to be absolutely convinced that they are about to be rammed, or are satisfied that a liner has received the command to sink but has continued its efforts to escape.

The greater part of the German submarine fleet is reported to have arrived at German naval bases within the past few days. According to Berlin, tonight said this accounted for the fact that there have been but few torpedo boats in the last few days.

## AMERICANS ON WAY HOME.

### Many Aboard Espagne, Leaving Bordeaux This Evening.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Sept. 18.—The French liner *Esperanza*, which sails from Bordeaux for New York to-morrow night, will carry 150 first cabin and 50 second cabin passengers.

George Baklanoff, the Russian barytone, will be a passenger, as will Charles Fawcett, the English actor. The latter is taking his family, servants and office staff with him and will make a long business trip. It is rumored that the French President, M. Poincaré, will be on the ship.

Others on the *Esperanza* will be Dr. J. M. Flint, J. H. Slattery, Elvira Rosen, a Petrograd opera singer; James Cutting, Shelly Kelly, M. Bordenave, director of the Ministry of Public Works; Capt. N. E. Marguerite, U. S. A., who has been detailed as an observer with the French army; Mrs. J. West Roosevelt, Frederick Allan, Jr., Raymond Harper, who is returning to Princeton; Louis Allard, a Harvard instructor who has been serving as an army interpreter; Robert Burleigh, U. S. Nicholson, and W. H. Barlow, U. S. A., American Ambassadors. Dr. A. Stillman, Dr. Jessup, Curtis Munson, Alexander Munson, Miss Mary M. Crawford, Miss E. Austin, Miss Brinkman, Miss Yvonne, Mrs. and Miss Boardman, and Miss Morell of the Red Cross Hospital Service; Miss A. E. Patterson, R. M. West, Miss Allen, Calvert Brewer and P. H. Blake of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney's hospital.

## TURKS ADOPT TRENCH MINES.

### One of Their Galleries on Gallipoli Peninsula Is Destroyed.

PARIS, Sept. 18.—The Turkish forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula have begun the use of mines in the trench warfare now proceeding there, according to an announcement made to-day by the French War Office. It says:

In the Dardanelles from September 12 to September 17, there was no movement of importance. The Turkish attacked several positions of our front by means of mines, which had not been employed by them up to this time.

On the morning of the 17th an enemy mine gallery was destroyed by our counter mines. The operation was perfectly successful, without costing us a single loss.

## HOLLANDER AIR RAID VICTIM.

### Killed by Zeppelin Bomb in London, "Times" Learns.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—The *Times* learns from Holland that a Holland name was killed by the killing of a Hollander named Stolz in a recent Zeppelin raid over London. Stolz, who was an employee of a Dutch firm in London, was hit by a bomb as he was walking toward his home. The girl was not injured.

## RUSSIANS LEAVE WILNA TO ITS FATE; NEAR FALL

Great Railroad Centre Almost Completely Invested by Teutons—Big Battle in This Region Is Expected by Petrograd.

### Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—Wilna, one of the most important of Russia's railway centres, is expected to fall into the hands of the Austro-Germans at any moment.

The city is under day and night bombardment from several sides, while the German aeroplanes are proceeding to bomb the city from the air. Bombs are rained on the city by the German forces. Petrograd asserts that the city has been devastated of everything that might be of use to the invaders.

The railroad, the prize that goes with Wilna, will, however, be of immense value to the invaders. It will enable them to move rapidly northward to Dvinsk, already encircled by strong forces, cut off Riga, and move their front eastward up to beyond the Grodno-Wilna-Dvinsk road.

The Germans are astride the Wilna-Petrograd line and their southern wing apparently is not far distant from the city. The line is broken in several places. The Germans have reached the Wilna-Molodechno-Minsk road. Aside from the army immediately closing in on Wilna, the German statement asserts that the Russian army is in retreat before the German forces.

It adds that "since early this morning the Russians have been retreating." Petrograd claims successes at several points in the central and southwestern parts of the front.

The German army headquarters' statement, which was telegraphed here to-day, says:

Near Sakhik Russian attacks were repulsed. Our attack on the Dvinsk bridgehead continues. A portion of the Russian army has been broken at several points. Our troops continue to advance near Wilna.

Between Wilna and the Niemen the Russian front has been broken through at several points. Since early this morning the Russians have been retreating. We have taken 25,000 prisoners, besides 16 machine guns.

The army group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria has sent strong forces across the Niemen. The Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen has driven the Russians back further in the region of Pleschany-Logoschin, to the south of Pinsk. South of Pinsk the number of prisoners captured has been increased to 21 officers and 2,500 men. We also have captured nine machine guns.

The official statement issued last night at Petrograd says:

Near the village of Jakubovsk, between the village of Novydyor and Lida (at the junction of the Wilna-Petrograd line and the Grodno-Wilna-Dvinsk line) all the German attacks were repulsed. The enemy reached the River Schara, attacked us near the village of Schara, and crossed to the right bank.

During the enemy offensive along the railway from Kobrin to Minsk encircled the Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen. In the course of a fight for the possession of Derashno we again had a victory. The Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen repulsed the enemy attacks on the town and drove the enemy headlong toward the village of Roudakowka, having taken 1,000 prisoners and four machine guns.

Our counter attack on the frontier village of Novydyor, southwest of the town of Vishniewsk, although it did not result in the capture of the village, enabled us to take prisoner twelve officers and 540 men, with three machine guns.

In engagements in the region east of the village of Babulins, on the Stripa, and toward the north of the village of Novydyor, our troops have taken 800 men. We occupied the villages of Yanovka and Pilawa, northeast of Bouchany, the enemy having abandoned them, retreating in disorder.

By bold actions on the whole front toward the south of the region of Kovno our troops continue to successfully check the development of local counter attacks, which in several sections are made by formidable enemy forces.

In the region of Riga there were engagements of small detachments on the River Ekau and at some places on the River Dvina. The Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen repulsed the enemy attacks west and southwest of Dvinsk continue. The enemy offensive near the village of Dvinsk, on the Lake Samava was repulsed by our artillery fire. In a skirmish north of Sventitsy, near the village of Sventitsy, the Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen remained in the possession of the enemy.

In the region of Wilna and east of the city, the Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen repulsed the enemy attacks. The Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen repulsed the enemy attacks. The Russian army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen repulsed the enemy attacks.

"Hence the experts conclude that a great battle is probable on the circular line, which includes Orany, Wilna, Novydyor, Vileika, Molodechno and Lida."

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On the Javorek heights some reinforcements were captured. The observatory and two blockhouses were dismantled and took fifty prisoners, including two officers.

On the Carso plateau on the night of September 17 the enemy made small attacks which were repulsed. We made several prisoners.

ITALIANS DRIVEN OUT. Are Forced by Forest Fires to Abandon Positions.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
ROME, Sept. 18.—Progress by the Italians in the Plezzo region, north of Tolmino, is announced in the report of Gen. Cadorna, made public to-night by the War Office. The Italian troops are described as having pierced the Austrian line running through a very difficult mountainous, wooded country.

The War Office statement was as follows:

On the night of September 17, after intense artillery fire, the enemy attacked our Monte Coston positions northwest of Arlerio. The attacks were repulsed.

On the following morning we attacked and dispersed the troops on Monte Valpiana and also destroyed the camp of Osmerica refuge.

Along the whole front from the steep cliffs of Ronbon to the treacherous wooded slopes of Javorek a Dutch force of 1,000 men was hit by a bomb as he was walking toward his home. The girl was not injured.

### Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Sept. 18.—Activity about St. Mihiel, at the point of the German wedge which has been so stubbornly maintained, is again reported after a long period of comparative calm in this region. It was the French artillery which resumed the contest in this sector and it won an important point in the destruction of the great bridge, a pontoon bridge and three foot bridges over the Meuse.

The importance of the success in destroying these bridges lies in the possibility of cutting off the Germans across the river at Chavoucourt, the only point at which they have been able to retain a hold on the west bank of the river south of Verdun.

A German captive balloon was brought down by the French fire northeast of St. Mihiel.

On the remainder of the front the action was confined chiefly to the artillery of both sides, except in the region of Roze, where there was a small battle and rifle fire.

A German and a French post in the valley of the Meuse, north of Berry-aux-Bac, was destroyed.

The communiqué issued to-night follows:

In the region of Lombardvillers there were actions of French mortars on both sides. Our heavy artillery destroyed two observation posts.

In the region of Roze there was fighting with grenades and rifle fire, accompanied by some artillery actions. The French artillery advanced to the north of Berry-aux-Bac, we destroyed a German advanced post.

In Champagne, in reply to the bombardment by the enemy of the region of Camp de Châlons, we bombarded violently the German bivouacs.

To the east of Châlons, northeast of St. Mihiel, German captive balloons were brought down.

In front of St. Mihiel our artillery cut the great bridge, a pontoon bridge and three foot bridges.

In the region of Roze there was a cannonade at the Ham-de-Sapt and at Le Beulay, east of St. Die.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows:

There was diversified activity during the night in the sector of Neuville-Rocourt, before Roze and upon the plateau of Queensvillers. There were frequent artillery bombardments with guns of various calibres and hand grenade conflicts, but without action on the part of the infantry.

In the region of Berry-aux-Bac and in Champagne, in the region around Perthes and between the Aene and the Argonne district there was continued activity of various kinds.

On the rest of the front there was nothing to report.

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## ST. MIHIEL BRIDGES SHATTERED BY FRENCH

Artillery Cuts Communication of German Force on West Bank of Meuse.

### BALLOON BROUGHT DOWN

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## CONSCRIPTION PLAN NEEDLAND SHELVED

Opposition of Organized Labor Forces Government to Delay Proposal.

### CABINET CLASH HINTED

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, Sept. 18.—It was reported in trade union circles this afternoon that the government had given assurance to Labor members of Parliament at a conference last night that it will not press the conscription issue, at least for many months.

According to the report representatives of the Government told the Labor members of Parliament that the Government had given assurance to Labor members of Parliament at a conference last night that it will not press the conscription issue, at least for many months.

The Government, it was explained, took this action in order to forestall further arguments of a sensational nature on the subject in the House of Commons.

Government is Warned.  
Before the Labor leaders heard of the reported decision by the Government the executive committee of the Amalgamated Union of Railway Servants, in an attempt to force conscription would follow any attempt to force conscription on the country.

A resolution was adopted by the committee, by unanimous vote, endorsing the statements made by J. H. Thomas, Labor member of Parliament, to the effect that an attempt to force conscription would bring about civil war, and condemning all "pro-conscription agitation."

The committee also instructed its secretary to watch the situation carefully and to call a special meeting at once should a bill for compulsory service be introduced.

The Times this morning suggests that "the divergence of opinion among politicians, which doubtless is reflected in the Cabinet itself, covers much broader ground than the mere question of national service."

"It is a divergence in effect," the Times continues, "between the policy of drift and the policy of action, and the policy of action is the policy of action."

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## Teutons Aim at Serbia; Allies Sound Bulgaria

To Smash Way Through to Turkey, Said to Be Austro-German Plan.

### INTENDED TO END WAR

Central Powers Seem Sure of Bulgarian Aid and of Rumanian Neutrality.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Sept. 18.—A sudden, concentrated attack upon Serbia, a subsequent dash of Austro-German armies to Bulgaria, to ready to aid that country against a possible attack from Rumania, thus establishing a chain of armies stretching from the Baltic to the Bosphorus, these are the factors comprising a forthcoming "master stroke" as voiced in the German and Austrian press and heartily endorsed by the public of both countries, especially of the Dual Monarchy.

Such a plan, if executed promptly and successfully, would, in the opinion of military experts, not only settle the entire Balkan question, but would insure an early peace, possibly by next spring.

Whether this is really the immediate project of the Teutons, military chiefs remains to be seen, but prompt action in the Balkans is looked for. An attack on Serbia undoubtedly would be extremely popular in Germany and Austria, the belief prevails that nothing could better serve the early ending of the war.

Both Germany and Austria are now certain that Bulgaria, having signed her agreement with Turkey, and failing to obtain the desired concessions from Greece and Serbia, is prepared to throw her lot with the Teutons. The confidence in the Teutons is the confidence in the Teutons.

No concern is aroused in the German or Austrian capital over reports in newspapers published in hostile nations that Rumania will not join the Teutons in the war on the side of the Entente Powers. It is argued that the Teutons have long since eliminated Rumania from their calculations, and that the Teutons are now certain that Bulgaria, having signed her agreement with Turkey, and failing to obtain the desired concessions from Greece and Serbia, is prepared to throw her lot with the Teutons.

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